

Lebanon to examine offers on missiles

BEIRUT, Aug. 15 (AFP) — Lebanese television denied Friday night that Lebanon has received any concrete offer of an anti-aircraft defense system, but reported that any offer would be examined, whether it came from a Communist, Western or Arab country.

The Libyan ambassador said here two days ago that Lebanon had accepted a Libyan offer to supply anti-aircraft defense but that the modalities were not yet settled. In Tel Aviv, a spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin said earlier Friday that deployment of Libyan ground-to-air missiles in Lebanon would create an "unacceptable" situation for Israel.

But Tourism Minister Marwan Hamade, a supporter of leftist leader Walid Joumblatt, said he favored deploying radar, planes and ground-to-air rockets because Israeli air raids last July had already killed hundreds.

The official television also announced that the four-party committee, seeking to settle the Lebanese crisis will meet here Saturday at the request of Lebanese President Elias Sarkis. Observers believed that the deteriorating security situation would be one of the subjects studied by the committee, representing

Syria, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the Arab League.

Beirut's port — one of the two crossing points between the East and West of the capital — was closed Friday by sniper fire for the second day in a row.

Meanwhile, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) does not favor deployment of Libyan anti-aircraft missiles in Lebanon as long as the Lebanese military command lacks the confidence of Lebanese nationalists, Palestinian leader Abu Jihad said here late Friday. He is second in command of Fatah and deputy commander of the Palestinian armed forces.

Abu Jihad told newsmen the PLO had demonstrated its ability to make its various member organizations respect the ceasefire in Lebanon but the Palestinians need to replace the weapons destroyed in their recent "two week war" with Israel because new Israeli offensives are likely soon.

He said PLO officials did not believe that the Reagan administration in Washington envisaged recognizing the PLO. On the contrary, the Americans are preparing to liquidate the PLO as Israel had failed to liquidate it militarily in Lebanon, he said.

With aid from tribesmen

Rebels beat back Soviets, Afghans

ISLAMABAD, Aug. 15 (AFP) — Afghan fighters aided by tribesmen pushed back a Soviet-Afghan offensive in eastern Afghanistan recently, Muslim rebel sources said here Friday.

The attack last week, in the Shinwar area bordering Pakistan, involved 30 Soviet tanks and armored cars and a large number of military vehicles in an operation aimed at "recapturing the Shinwar-occupied territory," the sources said.

Meeting "stiff tribal resistance," the Soviet-Afghan troops called for reinforcement and another ten tanks were brought in. Soviet helicopter gunships provided cover for the ground forces and

were later used for rescue operations, the source added.

The armed fighters were helped by the local population, preventing the troops' advance. The Soviet-Afghan forces finally had to "retreat to Jalalabad," the source said.

According to the rebels, six tanks were destroyed in the daylong battle. About 25 Afghans and Soviets including two Soviet officers, were killed in the fighting. Three fighters were reported killed in the operation while a large number of civilians were wounded in helicopter strafing, the rebels said.

By Khomeini rivals

Top Iranian journalist shot dead

TEHRAN, Aug. 15 (Agencies) — Youssef Deghat, a prominent Islamic journalist and militant, was shot dead by "terrorists" in the south Iranian port city of Bandar Abbas, the daily paper *Islamic Republic* for which he worked said Saturday.

Deghat, a leader of revolutionary guards in the city, was on way home by car Thursday when he was attacked by several people, the paper said. Deghat was also a leading member of the Islamic Republican Party,

which dominates Iranian politics, and an official of Friday prayers at Bandar Abbas.

Three revolutionary guards were killed and eight wounded Friday in three separate attacks by government opponents, the Iranian Pars news agency reported. One of the guards was shot dead in Sari, northern Mazandaran, by a member of the Mujahedeen who arrested.

Two guards were killed and two wounded while patrolling in Oajin in the same province, the agency said, adding that the guerrillas escaped. In Iran's southern Gars province, six guards and a student were wounded when a grenade was thrown at a building housing the revolutionary guards' department.

And at Masshad, in eastern Khorassan, a hospital employee, dressed like a guard, and his companion, were wounded by gunmen on a motorcycle.

Pars also said a total of nine "secessionists" were executed in Iranian cities Friday on charges of armed rebellion, belonging to leftists underground groups and carrying firearms. It said two persons were executed in Araka, two in Zanjan, two in Nushara and three in Ramsar.

Parliament Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani told worshippers at Tehran University earlier in the day that Iran's underground leftists do not constitute a threat to the hardline fundamentalist regime.

Cost of living jumps in Israel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 15 (AP) — Israel's cost of living index jumped 6.1 percent in July, bringing annual inflation to 120.9 percent, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced Friday.

The hike was double last month's rate of 2.7 percent, with the highest increase registered in housing. Since January, prices have risen 50 percent. The index rose to 215.2 points calculated on a 1980 base year equals 100. The index is not seasonally adjusted. Meanwhile, the price of heavy oil, diesel fuel and kerosene rose by 18 percent Wednesday night. That increase will be reflected in next month's index.



CHEERFUL: King Hussein and Queen Noor of Jordan look cheerfully as admirers gathered at Amman International Stadium Tuesday to celebrate the 29th anniversary of the king's accession to the throne. The King, accompanied by Prime Minister Miodar Badran, arrived in Baghdad for a visit and was received by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and senior officials at the airport. Jordan supports Iraq in its war with Iran.

Congressional team says

U.S. trying for Ogaden pact

MOGADISHU, Aug. 15 (R) — The chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa of the U.S. House of Representatives, Howard Wolpey, said Friday the United States was trying to find a political solution to the war in the disputed Ogaden region of Ethiopia.

Wolpey who heads the congressional team, told reporters here his five-strong delegation, on a six-nation tour of Africa, was trying "to learn how the United States might be helpful to facilitate a political solution to the difficulties in the region." The delegation is due to visit one of Somalia's 33 refugee camps Saturday. It is also to meet President Siad Barre and members of the parliamentary "people's assembly." The Ethiopian Army is fighting Somali-backed dissidents in the Ogaden region of Ethiopia.

Wolpey, a Michigan Democrat, said he hoped the visit would strengthen ties between the U.S. and Somalia. The Americans and Somali government officials would discuss American financial assistance to the country and issues involving the Horn of Africa and Somalia's refugee problem, said Wolpey. "I don't think there is any country that has been so generous in receiving refugees or has faced a more difficult refugee situation as Somalia," he said.

Saudi Arabia was represented by Ambassador Ali Shaer and Kuwait by Ambassador Abdul Hamid Busuyjan, Gen. Muhammad Ghanem, commander of the Syrian troops of

the Arab Deterrent Force in Lebanon, represented Syria. The Arab League did not have a representative present, the radio said. The meeting follows a decision taken at a ministerial-level meeting of the committee at the end of July, when it was decided that representatives of the three countries and the Arab League should try to arrange for all the parties in the Lebanese strife to get round the table on Sept. 3 in an effort to achieve national understanding.

Arab panel discusses Lebanon

BEIRUT, Aug. 15 (AFP) — The Arab quadripartite committee Saturday held a meeting on the Lebanese crisis at ambassador level, under the chairmanship of the Lebanese President Elias Sarkis, official Radio Beirut reported.

Saudi Arabia was represented by Ambassador Ali Shaer and Kuwait by Ambassador Abdul Hamid Busuyjan, Gen. Muhammad Ghanem, commander of the Syrian troops of

BRIEFS

UNITED NATIONS (R) — A senior sergeant with the Nigerian contingent in the United Nations peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon died on patrol Friday of natural causes, a U.N. spokesman said. The spokesman named the man as S. Alfa but gave no further details.

CAIRO (AP) — Salah Abdel Sabbour, a leading pioneer of what is called "modern poetry" died here Friday of a heart attack, Cairo newspapers reported Saturday. The 52-year-old poet, helped enrich the Arabic literature by contributing over 20 books. He had worked as an Arabic language teacher, a diplomat, a journalist and chairman of "the Arabic Book" Organization.

DACCA (AP) — The Bangladesh government Friday renamed Dacca International Airport Zia International Airport in memory of late President Ziaur Rahman, assassinated last month in an army mutiny. A cabinet meeting presided over by acting President Justice Abdus Sattar decided to rename the airport in recognition of Zia's contributions to the country.

Indians call off siege of Bangladesh enclaves

DACCA, Aug. 15 (AP) — Armed Indian nationals have ended their siege around the Bangladesh enclaves of Dahagram and Angarpota, imposed last July 6, it was reported Saturday.

In a telephone interview, the deputy commissioner of the Rangpur district said emergency supplies of food, medicine and other essential commodities were being sent to the enclaves now that the siege is over. Relations between India and Bangladesh deteriorated sharply following reports of death from starvation in the enclaves because of the siege by Indian nationals. Bangladesh has lodged a protest with India over the incident.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh is preparing to send needed supplies of food and medicine to Dahagram and Angarpota, a foreign office spokesman said Friday.

The government has also formally informed the Indian government of the situation in these enclaves, the spokesman said. A preliminary report indicates that the health problems facing the inhabitants of the enclaves have been "somewhat" eased, he said. However, he added that the situation still remains tense there.

A meeting between officers of the Bangladesh rifles and the Indian Border Security Force took place Thursday. "We are awaiting a full report on the situation in Dahagram and Angarpota for further actions, if required," a statement issued by the rifles said. The

spokesman denied that the foreign minister's summoning of five ambassadors for an emergency meeting indicated the political situation was growing increasingly serious. "It is a routine affair," he said. "We call our ambassadors from time to time for consultations."

Bombs hurled at homes of Dacca leaders

DACCA, Aug. 15 (AP) — Bombs were hurled from speeding cars Friday night at the residences of several prominent politicians, including that of former President Khondokar Mustaq Ahmad, where one person was slightly injured, police reported Saturday. There were no other reports of injuries.

The other targets of the bomb attacks were the residences of Ataur Rahman Khan, head of the newly-formed 18-party rightist alliance, who is expected to be a candidate in the Oct. 15 presidential elections, Shaiful Alam Prodan, organizer of the tiny National Democratic Party and former chief of the fanatic Islamic Jamaat Islami Party, and Prof. Golam Azam, a Pakistani citizen.

Billy Carter severs Libyan links

WASHINGTON, Aug. 15 (AP) — Billy Carter has told the U.S. Justice Department that he is no longer an agent of the Libyan government, according to documents filed with the department.

In a final statement submitted to the department's foreign agent registration unit Aug. 6, the younger brother of former President Jimmy Carter said he had terminated his activities on behalf of Libya. Nevertheless, the Justice Department has not closed its books entirely on the affair which led to special Senate and Justice Department investigations, and embarrassed President Carter's administration in the months before last year's presidential election.

John Keeney, deputy assistant attorney general in the department's criminal division, said Friday, "There is an aspect of that case which is still open." Keeney declined to discuss what was still open. On April 21, the department's top internal investigator, Michael E. Shaheen, absolved top Carter administration officials of misconduct in the Billy Carter investigation. But the results of a nine-month investigation were referred to the criminal division to decide whether to bring charges on the basis of Shaheen's conclusion that Billy Carter had lied to Justice Department investigators looking into his connections with Libya. The charge of lying

to government agents, however, is rarely filed in the absence of other criminal charges.

The Carter Administration Justice Department brought the president's younger brother into federal court in June 1980, forcing him to register as an agent of Libya. Billy Carter had arranged several trips to this country by Libyan officials, had been working on an oil deal with Libya and had received a \$220,000 loan from the regime of Muammar Qaddafi.

As a registered foreign agent, Billy Carter was required to file statements with the Justice Department every six months on his activities on behalf of Libya.

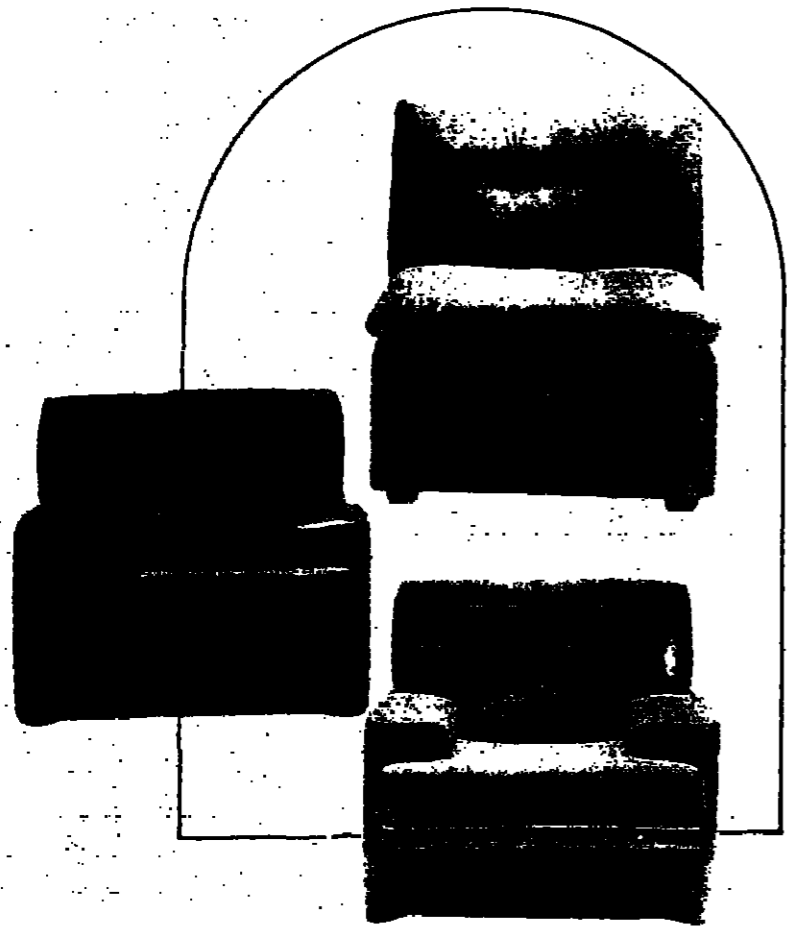
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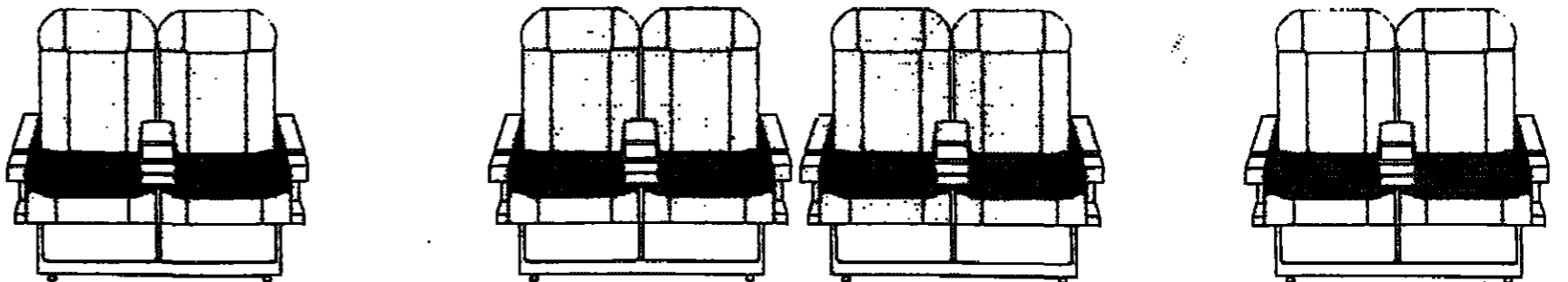
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Alternatives being investigated

Tourism mars Bahamas economy

By Dial Torgerson

NASSAU, The Bahamas, (LT) — In 1492, Christopher Columbus waded ashore through the crystalline Bahamian waters, discovering the New World and becoming the forerunner of millions of tourists who have spared the Commonwealth of the Bahamas from most of the crises that affect the struggling little countries of the region. Almost 2 million tourists each year visit the sun-drenched beaches and quaint cities of the Bahamas, providing 60 percent of the island nation's gross national product and creating 60 percent of the jobs.

As they dance to steel drum bands, water ski, swim, tan, yacht and invest — sometimes immoderately — in the Bahamas' tourists are keeping the country solvent. And, in the great Caribbean Basin, where bankruptcy often lurks just over the horizon, like next fall's hurricane season, this is not easy. Tourists are flighty. At the least alarm they may flee, the way startled pigeons desert a city square, except the tourists may alight next half a world away.

"Tourism is the biggest engine in our economy," said Prime Minister Lynden O. Pindling. "There's no doubt about that."

But what if the engine falters? How far can a little country of about 250,000 people count on a tide of visiting big spenders to keep the profits rolling in?

There are increasing troubles that could eventually affect tourism — the shortage of jobs for each year's crop of high school graduates, a crime rate that is rising as unemployed youth turn to theft to make a living, the annual population growth rate of 3 percent.

"One of the problems," said an expatriate economist who works here, "is that the people are exposed to sophisticated American tastes — the closest island is only 60 miles from Florida, and the Bahamians see U.S. television, they read American magazines, and they develop American tastes. But very few of them can afford it legally."

So far most of the crime is by Bahamians against Bahamians. The luxury hotels are protected by legions of guards, and the elegantly clad Bahamian Police (white pith helmets and tunics, black trousers with a crimson stripe) protect tourists as if they were a sacred trust.

Leaders of the Bahamas are aware of what happened in the U.S. Virgin Islands, where the "American paradise" suffered a setback in tourism because of a crime wave attributed to unemployed local youths. When the Virgin Islands administration invited eight U.S. travel writers to visit, to offer a spate of bad publicity, muggers stormed their bus and robbed all eight.

"Tourists hear about trouble somewhere in the Caribbean," a Bahamian government official said, "and they think it's happening everywhere. Instead of the Caribbean, they may go to the Mediterranean."

Pindling, 51, a member of parliament here for 25 years and leader of the government since independence in 1973, is aware of the threat of rising unemployment, which runs 25 percent for young people. A careful, pragmatic man, he wants to protect both tourism and his own chances of re-election in next year's national election.

What, he was asked in an interview, could the Bahamas develop as an alternative to the tourism industry?

"Most likely it is construction," he said. "We must broaden the scope of it. We must increase home construction for low-to middle-income groups. The funds for it will come from the world bank, government sources, and from our social security system. We expect to invest between \$30 million and \$40 million in urban renewal and new home construction over the next few years."

Such a program would provide both jobs and housing, which is in short supply in the Bahamas' big cities, the capital of Nassau (100,000) on New Providence Island and Freeport (25,000) on Grand Bahama Island. Bahamians from the other islands — 15 are populated — have come to the cities, seeking work, and upwards of 20,000 Haitians have slipped in illegally with the same goal.

But building houses would not solve the Bahamas' need for a broader economic base as a hedge against a day when tourism might flag. (This year's total is expected to equal last year's 1.9 million visitors, the first time the number of arrivals failed to rise.) To broaden the base, the Bahamas must get, and is seeking, foreign investment.

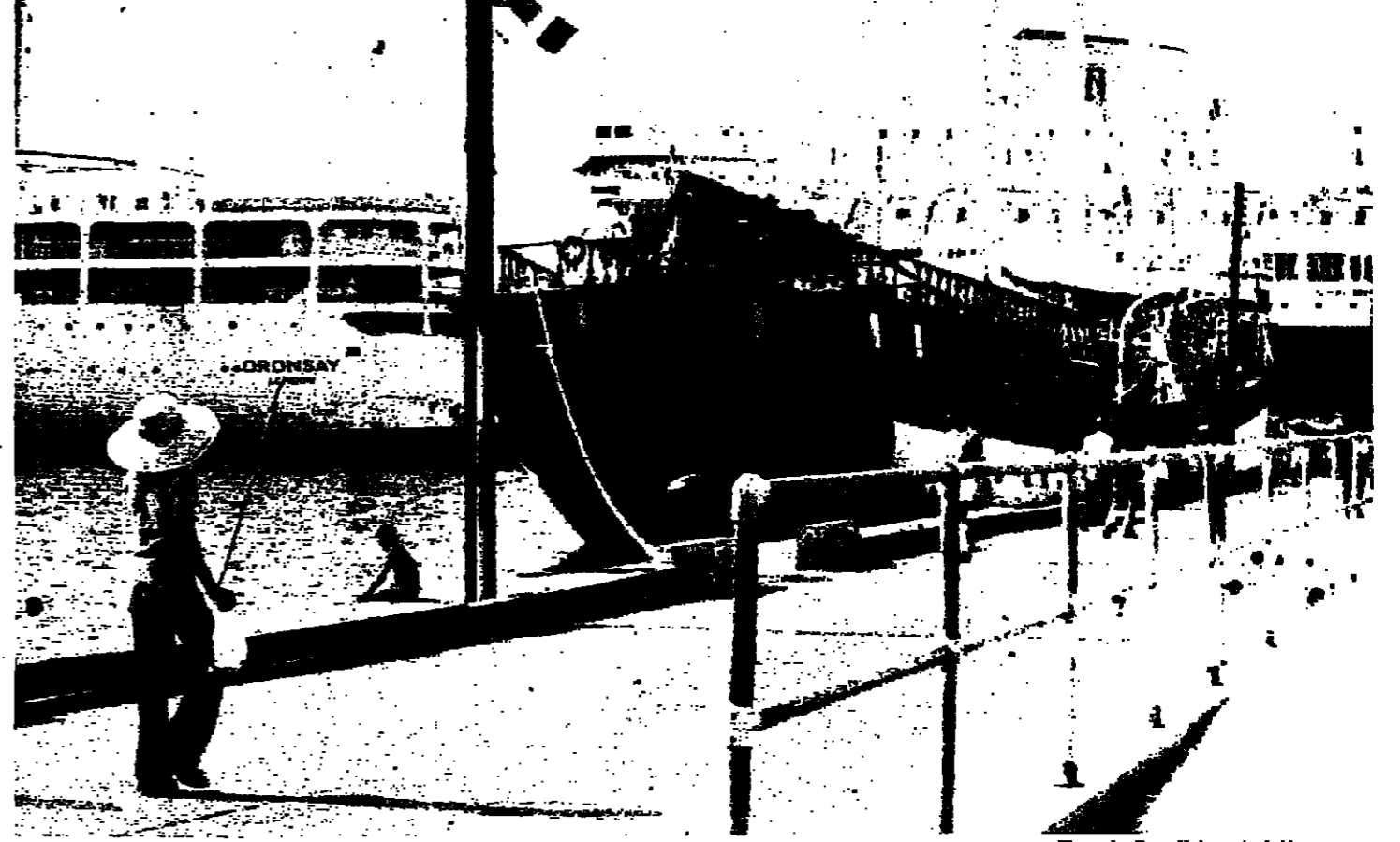
"The government, as run by Pindling through his Progressive Liberal Party, has become increasingly conservative and careful. Although it has offered big advantages to foreign investors — exemption from most taxes, including those on income and capital gains, for instance — the government carefully reviews each application by foreign investors to locate here, and long delays sometimes discourage businessmen."

"In a country with no natural mineral resources," Pindling said, "we have to use our limited natural resources and our geographical position to best advantage. And one of the things we must do is make a meaningful program, operated carefully, in such a way that it doesn't throw things out of balance."

Pindling's party holds 30 of the 38 seats in parliament, but the opposition is active. The two major opposition parties, the Social Democrats and the Free National Movement, which hold the other eight seats in parliament, charge that Pindling does not have a comprehensive policy for the country. They also say he has been simply taking stopgap measures to ease problems one at a time as they arise.

But the bitterest criticism of Pindling's government comes from the little Vanguard National Socialist Party, which prints an angry twice-a-month newspaper ("Shameless sell-out of the working class," reads a typical headline) that is quickly snapped up by the lower-class people of Nassau's so-called black belt areas.

"We're not fighting people with white skin," said Dr. John McCartney, 40, a one-time assistant professor at Purdue University, and leader of the Socialist Faction. "We're fighting for everybody. It is the white



NASSAU HARBOR: Cruise ships like those in the background regularly dock in Nassau and then continue on to other islands in the Bahamas. The four-masted sailing ship the 'Fantome' also cruises the islands at a more leisure pace by sail.

economic factors which still more or less control the PLP (Pindling's party) and fund his election campaigns."

The Bahamas is 85 percent black, but the white 15 percent holds most of the economic — if not the political — power. Pindling and all the top officials of his government are black.

McCartney's Socialists — who call one another "comrade" and have been hurt, by association, by the costly failure of Jamaica's socialist experiment under Michael Manley — probably won't get into parliament in next year's elections, according to most political

observers.

But if unemployment continues to rise, if crime continues to mount, and if anything happens to what is basically a fragile, one-industry economy, the socialists may do better, and Pindling worse, in 1987, most insiders predict.

"We have 14,000 hotel rooms in Nassau, and 8,000 more in the other islands," said Baltron B. Bethel, director general of Bahamian tourism, "and our 10-year program is to build 10,000 more. We are starting new promotions to develop tourism from Latin

America, and upgrading airports to take people directly to the outer islands. We are confident tourism will continue to grow."

"The Bahamas continues to be a stable country politically, socially and economically," says a report from the U.S. Embassy here. "It has the confidence of international bankers, the business community and foreign investors. However, like all developing countries, it is suffering some growing pains..."

Will the Bahamas be able to handle these problems? "If by handle, you mean solve, no," Pindling said. "But contain? yes."



QUEENS STAIRCASE: One of many historical attractions available for tourists to visit in the Bahamas.

Lazy eye diagnosis developed

By a Science Correspondent

LONDON — Amblyopia or "lazy eye," a condition where one under-used eye can degenerate and become useless, can now be diagnosed early enough to be corrected. Until now, correcting the condition depended on a patient accurately describing how he saw and the doctor correctly identifying the disease — before it had progressed too far.

But Dr. S.H. Hay, an ophthalmologist in Huntsville, Alabama, has developed a computer program that reads photographs of the eye taken in strong, direct light. In the photos, the pupils of healthy eyes appear identical, but those shaped differently from one another or having a whitish tinge reveal the presence of lazy eye.

The screening apparatus, including a specially equipped camera and the reading device, is particularly suitable for use in schools, the doctor says.

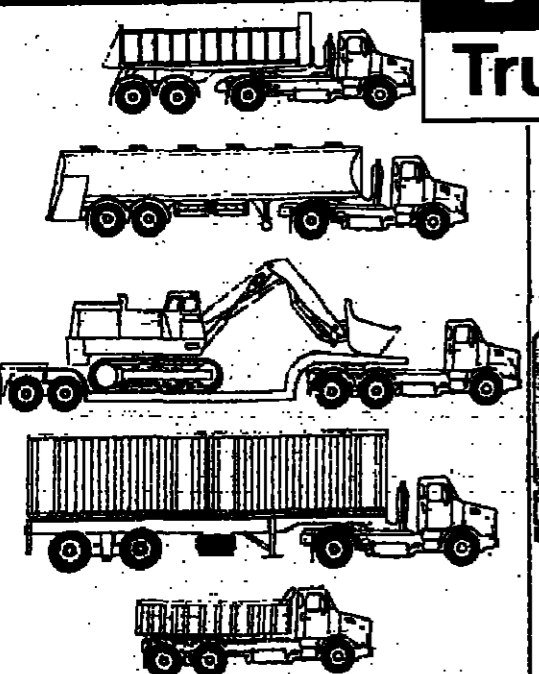


NASSAU LIGHTHOUSE: One of the first sights seen by tourists approaching the Bahamas by the sea is this lighthouse marking the entrance to the Nassau Harbor.

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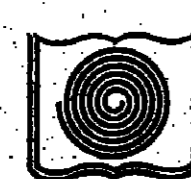
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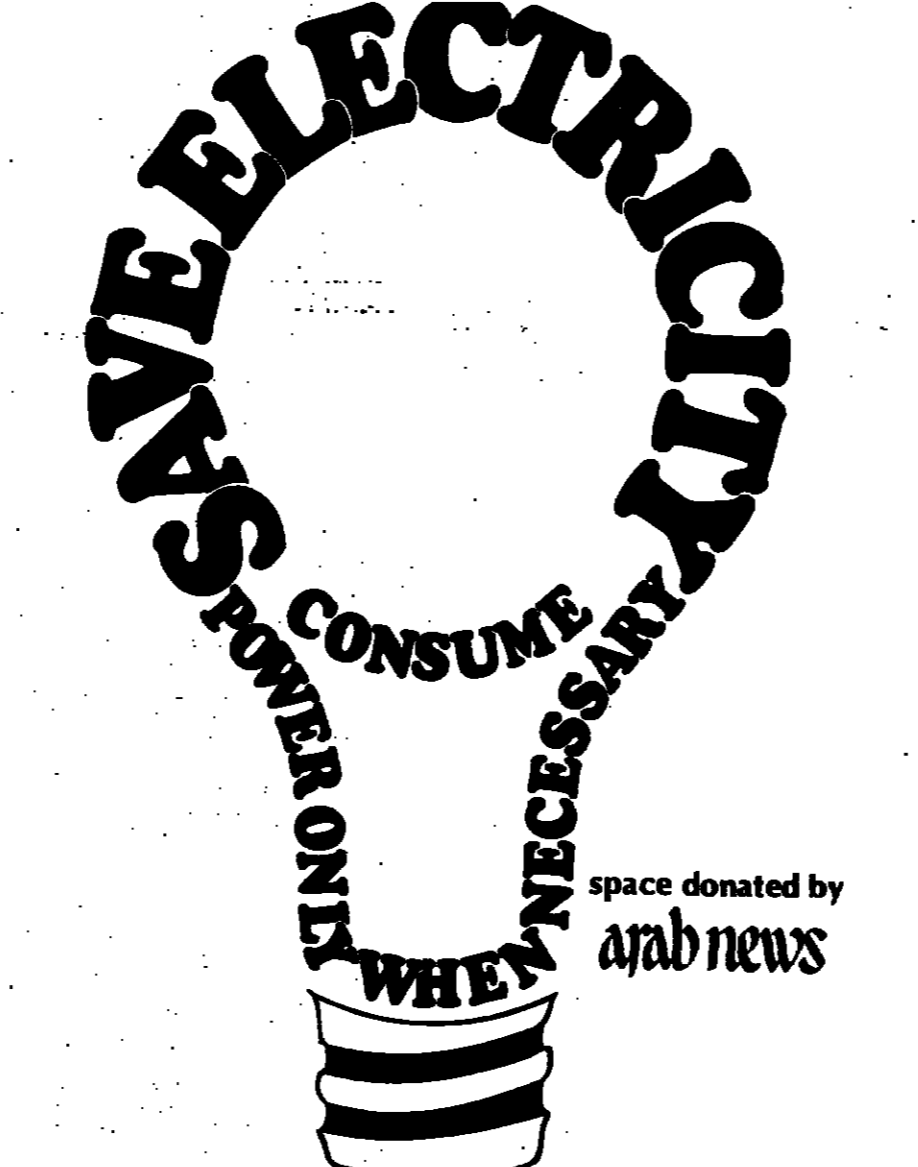
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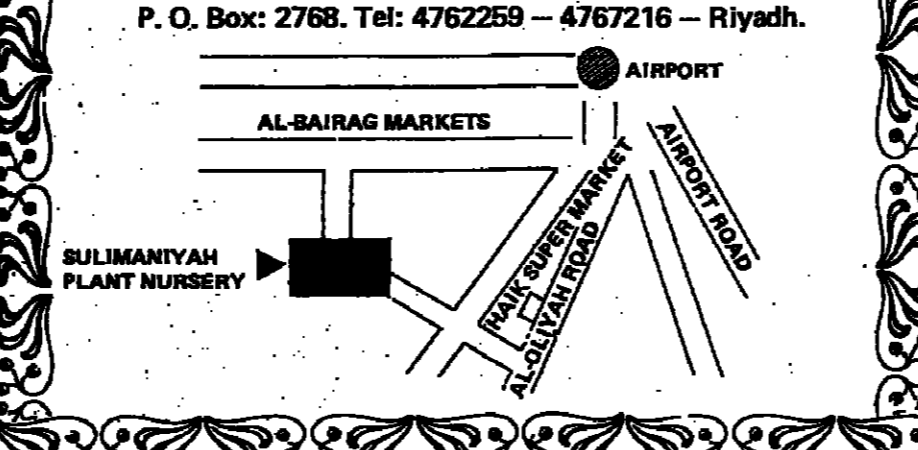


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 P. O. Box: 2384, Dammam Tel: 8325686, 8324855, 8324906, 8324908.
 Telex: 601289 SAMAR SJ. Cable: SAMAR Dammam.

To receive their delivery order to avoid any delay, that may cause damage or loss to their cargo.

